

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 6/17/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Trish Avery-Caldwell 805.473.2505	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a renewal service contract (Clerk's File) for Emergency Shelter, Crisis-Stabilization Foster Care (CFC), and Wraparound Foster Care (WFC) with Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI), a local foster family agency, for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$4,591,404. All Districts			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal service contract with Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI), a local foster family agency, for Emergency Shelter, Crisis-Stabilization Foster Care (CFC), and Wraparound Foster Care (WFC) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 in the amount of \$4,591,404.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Fed (9%) St (39%) Co (52%)	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$4,591,404	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$4,591,404	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____ ) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____ )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001395		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: <u>June 18, 2013</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services/Trish Avery-Caldwell  
(805) 473-2505

DATE: 6/17/2014

SUBJECT: Request to approve a renewal service contract (Clerk's File) for Emergency Shelter, Crisis-Stabilization Foster Care (CFC), and Wraparound Foster Care (WFC) with Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI), a local foster family agency, for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$4,591,404. All Districts.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal service contract with Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI), a local foster family agency, for Emergency Shelter, Crisis-Stabilization Foster Care (CFC), and Wraparound Foster Care (WFC) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 in the amount of \$4,591,404.

## **DISCUSSION**

Nationwide, the foster care system serves around 400,000 children temporarily removed from abusive or neglectful homes, or children that no longer have a parent(s) that can provide care for other reasons [(2012 Adm. for Children and Families, The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), Report #20, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb>)]. Statewide there are approximately 55,000 children and youth in foster care (2012, Annie E. Casey Foundation, [www.kidsdata.org](http://www.kidsdata.org); Topic: School and Youth Safety/Foster Care) and locally the Department of Social Services of San Luis Obispo County (DSS) provides foster care services to an average of three hundred and seventy five (375) children and youth each year ([Department of Social Services Semi-Annual Report, July 1, 2013-December 31, 2013](#)).

When a child is placed outside of his/her home, Child Welfare Services (CWS), a division of the DSS, provides extensive services to the family of origin in hopes of reunification, or, when reunification is not an option, CWS provides for a permanent placement that meets the needs and safety of the child. Social Workers (SW) help provide adults, children and foster families, or other placement agencies, with services to stabilize the environment for the child or youth while a permanent case plan is being developed to address safety and health concerns of the child(ren). DSS has partnered with FCNI since 1992 to help meet the safety and health needs of each child served, while also meeting Federal and State foster care mandates.

FCNI is a private, nonprofit local foster family agency (FFA) that began providing services in 1987 with the purpose of creating family-based treatment programs as an alternative to group home or institutional care for children and youth. The agency's mission is "to enhance the well-being of children and families in partnership with our community" and serves approximately 1,500 children, youth and families annually ([2012-2013 FCNI Annual Report](#)). The agency provides extensive foster care services and currently operates seventeen (17) accredited programs within five (5) service divisions:

- 1) Therapeutic Foster Care
- 2) Family Support
- 3) Transitional Housing
- 4) Prevention and Early Intervention
- 5) Community-Linked

DSS contracts for three (3) programs that fall within the FCNI Therapeutic Foster Care division. Services are available upon request for children, youth and families served by DSS:

- Emergency Shelter
- Crisis-Stabilization Foster Care (CFC)

- Wraparound Foster Care (WFC)

Emergency Shelter ensures ten (10) shelter beds with a certified or County-licensed family are available 24/7 to provide service to DSS children/minors who have been removed from their home due to abuse, neglect, child/youth disruptive behavior, or for other child safety reasons. Removing a child from a harmful environment can happen at any time and a safe placement must be available. Services provided while in shelter care are designed to develop and maintain positive, productive and healthy behaviors that focus on facilitating a successful transition to the biological family, or a more permanent placement with a foster family, or successful transition to independent living. FCNI is the only local provider for emergency shelter beds with a certified or County-licensed family to provide temporary care for foster children and youth.

Crisis-Stabilization Foster Care (CFC) services have been available through FCNI since 2004 and meet the needs of children/youth and families in the community. CFC provides family-centered crisis stabilization for minors requiring increased behavioral services in an out-of-home setting that exceed services provided in a basic foster care placement. CFC is a unique short-term crisis stabilization program, for up to ninety (90) days that utilizes Rehabilitation Specialist support *and* a behavioral management system with the intent of reunifying the child/youth to their home or prior placement. With six (6) available beds, FCNI has served one hundred fifty (150) children/youth between 2004 and 2013 with eighty two percent (82%) of those placements successful based on: 1) stabilized family placement, 2) diversion from a higher level of institution care (i.e., averted from high-level institutional care), and 3) reunification or successful transition to independent living. FCNI is the only provider of CFC for foster children and youth in our County ([2012-2013 FCNI Annual Report](#)).

The Wraparound Foster Care (WFC) program offers alternatives to out-of-home placement in an institutionalized setting (i.e., group home) by bringing services like Rehabilitation Specialists, tutors, clinical supervision, and social workers to the family based on an approved service plan. WFC is family-based treatment in a very structured behavioral management system to support emotionally and/or behaviorally challenged children/youth as they work to gain behaviors that are appropriate in a family environment. When remaining in the family of origin is not in the best interest of the child, WFC can be provided to a child or youth in a foster family setting.

The number of DSS children/youth anticipated to receive WFC services in FY 2014-15 has been decreased from fifty-five (55) to forty seven (47) based on the substantial increase in the cost to provide WFC services effective July 2013. The Group Home Standard Schedule of Rates (RCL Level) is set by CDSS ([RCL Level Rates](#)) and depending on the demand for WFC services in FY 14-15 the contract may need to be increased mid-year to accommodate the demand for these services. FCNI WFC is funded at RCL Level 13 and is the only local provider of these services for foster children and youth. (See references [ACL 13-62](#) and [ACL 13-62E](#) for rate increase background).

All programs are delivered in partnership with public and private agencies and are designed utilizing "Best Practices" which include being family-focused, strength-based, needs driven, community-centered and culturally competent. Foster parents are specially trained to provide the best possible care for children/youth with high emotional/behavioral needs. These foster care programs not only assist the children/youth being served, but are also designed to provide parents with continuous support, training and agency accountability. For more information about services offered by FCNI you may visit their website at [www.fcni.org](http://www.fcni.org).

Approval of this renewal contract will ensure FCNI continues to provide Emergency Shelter, CFC and WFC services for the County in support of the outcomes of Assembly Bill 636 (AB 636), the Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (better known as the System Improvement Plan or SIP), which focuses on continuous improvement, interagency partnerships, community involvement and public reporting on outcomes. These services support the Department and County goal of ensuring all people in the community enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities.

#### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

This contract was developed in partnership with the FCNI and County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract as to legal form and effect.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The total contract amount for FCNI Emergency Shelter and Intervention Services is \$4,591,404 and funds three

programs: Emergency Shelter, CFC, and WFC in the amounts of \$458,000, \$382,000, and \$3,751,404 respectively. The contract is included in the DSS budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and will require no additional General Fund contribution.

Agency		Budgeted FY 12-13	Budgeted FY 13-14	Budgeted FY 14-15	Notes	Sharing Ratios		
						Fed	Realignment 2011	Co
FCNI	Shelter	\$ 458,000	\$ 458,000	\$ 458,000	Emergency Shelter and Intervention Services	9%	39%	52%
	CFC	\$ 382,000	\$ 382,000	\$ 382,000				
	WFC	<u>\$3,642,168</u>	<u>\$3,751,404</u>	<u>\$ 3,751,404</u>				
Total Contract Amount		<u>\$4,482,168</u>	<u>\$4,591,404</u>	<u>\$4,591,404</u>				

## RESULTS

### Fiscal Year 13-14

*As of March 31, 2014, a total of ninety (90) foster children and families received services during the contract year. It is anticipated that this number will be higher by June 30, 2014, which is the end of the contract term.*

*Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2012-2013 and received July 20, 2013, a total of one hundred and one (101) foster children and families received services last year.*

### Emergency Shelter

FCNI provided services that resulted in providing 1,073 shelter days with a forty five percent (45%) utilization rate as of March 31, 2014. *Though this number will be slightly higher by the end of the FY, the utilization rate will most likely be lower than the anticipated fifty-five percent (55%) or 1,800 days filled, due to a lack of referrals from DSS for this service. The lack of referrals is primarily a result of a reduced need for emergency shelter during this fiscal year. Each year the service type fluctuates and as needed, funding shifts to the program/service with the highest demand based on the needs of children and families in our communities. No appropriate shelter referrals are turned away.*

*Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2012-2013 and received July 20, 2013, of the 2,802 actual available shelter days a total of 1,347 were filled resulting in a forty eight percent (48%) utilization rate.*

FCNI met its performance outcome to provide services that resulted in no substantiated reports of abuse/neglect.

### Crisis-Stabilization Foster Care (CFC)

FCNI provided 1,564 of 1,676 placement days were provided for a ninety three percent (93%) utilization rate as of March 31, 2014. *Though this number will be slightly higher by the end of the FY, the placement days will most likely be lower than the anticipated 2,555 due to a lack of referrals from DSS for this service. The lack of referrals is primarily a result of a reduced need for CFC during this fiscal year. Each year the service type fluctuates and as needed, funding shifts to the program/service with the highest demand based on the needs of children and families in our communities. No appropriate referrals are turned away.*

*Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2012-2013 and received July 20, 2013, of 2,359 placement days (based on year-end actual beds/placements available) a total of 2,175 placement days were provided resulting in a ninety two percent (92%) utilization rate.*

FCNI provided services that resulted in serving eleven (11) teens receiving short-term (90-120 days) CFC services as of March 31, 2014. *Though this number will be slightly higher by the end of the FY, the number of teens served may be lower than the anticipated twenty-three (23) teens due to the following reasons:*

- The behaviors and needs of the children being placed have been more severe therefore extending the length of stay and reducing the total number of children that can be served.*
- Foster parent availability has been limited.*

*Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2012-2013 and received July 20, 2013, a total of twenty six (26) teens received*

*short-term (90-120 days) CFC services.*

FCNI exceeded its performance outcome to provide services that resulted in eight five percent (85%) of children/youth (16) utilizing CFC services stabilizing and being diverted from placement in a Rate Classification Level (RCL) 12-14 group home or hospital. *As of March 31, 2014, ten (10) of eleven (11), or ninety one percent (91%), of children/youth (13 of 17) utilizing CFC services were stabilized and diverted from placement in a Rate Classification Level (RCL) 12-14 group home or hospital.*

*Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2012-2013 and received July 20, 2013, a total of twenty (20) of twenty six (26), or seventy six percent (76%), of children/youth served had successful outcomes.*

#### **Wraparound (WRAP) Foster Care**

FCNI provided services that resulted in meeting its performance outcome of serving up to fifty (50) children/families per month, up to one hundred (100) per year. *As of March 31, 2014, a total of ninety (90) Wraparound placements were made, with at least fifty (50) per month. It is anticipated this number will be slightly higher by the end of the contract year.*

*Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2012-2013 and received July 20, 2013, a total of one hundred and one (101) Wraparound placements were made last year.*

FCNI exceeded its performance outcome to provide services that resulted in eighty percent (80%) of clients served being successfully stabilized and/or diverted from Rate Classification Level (RCL) 12-14 group home placement. *As of March 31, 2014 a total of seventy six (76) of ninety (90), or eighty four percent (84%) of participants receiving Wraparound services were successfully stabilized and/or diverted from RCL 12-14 group home placement.*

FCNI met its performance outcome and provided services that resulted in one hundred percent (100%) of children/families being served receiving crisis intervention services 24 hours per day, seven days per week as needed.

Fiscal Year 14-15

#### **Emergency Shelter:**

- FCNI will provide 3,285 shelter days with a utilization rate of fifty-five percent (55%) or 1,800 days filled.
- FCNI will have no substantiated reports of abuse/neglect.

#### **CFC Services:**

- FCNI will provide 2,555 child/youth placement days with a utilization rate of ninety percent (90%) or 2,300 days filled.
- FCNI will provide twenty-three (23) teens CFC services for 90 - 120 days.
- FCNI will provide services that result in eight-five percent (85%) of the children/youth (16) utilizing CFC services being stabilized and diverted from placement in an Rate Classification Level (RCL) 12-14 group home (i.e., placement in a facility to address emotional or mental health needs with special services) or hospital placement.

#### **Wraparound Services:**

- FCNI will provide wraparound services for up to forty seven (47) children/families per month, up to one hundred (100) per year.
- FCNI will provide services that result in eighty percent (80%) of clients served being successfully stabilized and/or diverted from RCL 12-14 group home placement.
- FCNI will provide services that result in one hundred percent (100%) of children/families being served receiving crisis intervention services 24 hours per day, seven days per week as needed.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Attachment 1 FCNI Clerk's File Statement